

INDONESIA: EARTHQUAKE

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The Disaster

A strong earthquake measuring 7.6 on the Richter Scale (according to the US Geological Survey) hit the remote Indonesian island of Mangole on Sunday 29 November.

Initial reports received through the Indonesian Red Cross (PMI) indicate that the two sub-districts of East and West Talibu (total 5 villages) were badly affected. Sources (largely local government, PMI branches and the Ambon Institution of Meteorology & Geophysics) indicate that six people have died and at least 30 people have been seriously injured. Additionally, 98 houses and some public buildings, such as schools and churches, have been destroyed.

The island of Mangole is situated in Central Sulawesi (part of the Maluku archipelago) 1,180 miles east of Indonesia's capital city of Jakarta.

Red Cross/Red Crescent Action

After distributing some initial assistance (5mt rice, noodles, sugar & medicine) provided by the local government, the Indonesian Red Cross is continuing to work with the authorities in assessing the situation.

Needs

Given the remoteness of the island, it will be some time before the full picture of the situation emerges. While local resources will be mobilised wherever possible, it is likely that additional relief supplies and rehabilitation materials, probably shipped from other islands in the Indonesian archipelago, will be needed. Further information from the region and from the Indonesian Red Cross is expected within the next 24 hours.

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